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(3) A description of the criteria to be used to measure the benefits created as a result of its activities;

(4) A discussion about the amount of such benefits created that it will consider to constitute successfully meeting the objectives of the RBIC program.

(i) *Affiliates and business relationships.* The Applicant must submit information describing the management and financial strength of any parent or holding entity, affiliated firm or entity, or any other firm or entity essential to the success of the Applicant's business plan.

§ 4290.330 Grant issuance fee.

The Applicant must pay to the Secretary a grant issuance fee of \$5,000. An Applicant must submit this fee in advance, at the time of application submission.

Subpart E—Evaluation and Selection of RBICs

§ 4290.340 Evaluation and selection—general.

The Secretary on behalf of USDA and the Administrator on behalf of SBA, in their sole discretion, will evaluate and select an Applicant to participate in the RBIC program based on a review of the Applicant's application materials, interviews or site visits with the Applicant (if any), and background investigations conducted by the Secretary and other Federal agencies. The Secretary's evaluation and selection process is intended to—

(a) Ensure that Applicants are evaluated on a competitive basis and in a fair and consistent manner;

(b) Take into consideration the unique proposals presented by Applicants;

(c) Ensure that each Applicant licensed as a RBIC can fulfill successfully the goals of its comprehensive business plan; and

(d) Ensure that the Secretary selects Applicants in such a way as to promote nationwide geographic distribution of Developmental Venture Capital investments.

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§ 4290.350 Eligibility and completeness.

The Secretary will not consider any application that is not complete or that is submitted by an Applicant that does not meet the eligibility criteria described in subpart C of this part. The Secretary at his or her sole discretion, may request from an Applicant additional information concerning eligibility criteria or easily completed portions of the application in order to facilitate consideration of its application.

§ 4290.360 Initial review of Applicant's management team's qualifications.

The Secretary will review the information submitted by the Applicant concerning the qualifications of the Applicant's management team to determine in his or her sole discretion whether the team meets the minimum requirements deemed by the Secretary to be critical to successful venture capital investing. In making this determination, the Secretary will consider, among other things, the general business reputation of the owners and managers of the Applicant. Only those Applicants considered to have a management team qualified for venture capital investing will be further considered for selection as a RBIC.

§ 4290.370 Evaluation criteria.

Of those Applicants whose management team is considered qualified for venture capital investing and who have submitted an eligible and complete application, the Secretary on behalf of USDA and the Administrator on behalf of SBA, in their sole discretion, will evaluate and select an Applicant for participation in the RBIC program by considering the following criteria—

(a) Whether the Applicant's management team has the knowledge, experience, and capability necessary to manage a sound, economically viable RBIC and to comply with the Act;

(b) The quality of the Applicant's comprehensive business plan in terms of meeting the objectives of the RBIC program;

(c) The likelihood that the Applicant will achieve the goals described in its comprehensive business plan;

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(d) The strength and likelihood for success of the Applicant's operations and investment strategies, including whether the Applicant has projected adequate profitability and financial soundness;

(e) Whether the Applicant will be able to operate soundly and profitably over the long term;

(f) Whether the Applicant will be able to operate actively in its identified Rural Areas in accordance with its business plan;

(g) The need for Developmental Venture Capital investments in the Rural Areas in which the Applicant intends to invest;

(h) The extent to which the Applicant will concentrate its activities on serving Smaller Enterprises and Small Business Concerns located in the Rural Areas in which it intends to invest, including the ratio of resources that it proposes to invest in such Enterprises as compared to other Enterprises;

(i) The Applicant's demonstrated understanding of the markets in the Rural Areas in which it intends to focus its activities;

(j) The likelihood that and the time frame within which the Applicant will be able to raise the Regulatory Capital it proposes to raise for its investments;

(k) The strength of the Applicant's proposal to provide Operational Assistance to Smaller Enterprises in which it plans to invest;

(l) The extent to which the activities proposed by the Applicant will promote economic development and the creation of wealth and job opportunities in the Rural Areas in which it intends to invest and among individuals living in such Areas; and

(m) The strength of the Applicant's application compared to applications submitted by other Applicants intending to invest in the same or proximate Rural Areas.

§ 4290.380 Selection.

From among the Applicants that have submitted eligible and complete applications, the Secretary on behalf of USDA and the Administrator on behalf of SBA, in their sole discretion, will select some, all, or none of such Applicants to participate in the RBIC program. Selection will entitle the Appli-

cant to proceed with obtaining a license as a RBIC but only if the Applicant also meets the conditions set forth in § 4290.390.

§ 4290.390 Licensing as a RBIC.

(a) *Eligibility criteria for licensing as a RBIC.* Each selected Applicant must meet the following conditions before it is eligible to be licensed as a RBIC:

(1) Raise, within a time period specified by the Secretary but not to exceed 12 months after selection under § 4290.380 the specific amount of Regulatory Capital that the Applicant had projected in its application that it would raise (see § 4290.210 for additional information);

(2) Raise \$500,000 in Leverageable Capital as required by § 4290.210;

(3) Complete and submit to the Secretary all legal and other documentation concerning the RBIC, including but not limited to its Articles and updated financial information concerning the RBIC in order to qualify for a Leverage commitment; and

(4) Enter into a Participation Agreement with the Secretary.

(b) *Licensing as a RBIC.* If the selected Applicant has satisfactorily met all the conditions specified in paragraph (a) of this section, as determined within the sole discretion of the Secretary, then the Secretary on behalf of USDA and the Administrator on behalf of SBA will license the Applicant as a RBIC.

(c) *Failure to meet eligibility criteria for licensing.* Each selected Applicant that does not meet the eligibility criteria for licensing described in paragraph (a) of this section, within a time period specified by the Secretary, will not be licensed as a RBIC. Failure to meet any of those conditions, including but not limited to failure to raise the projected Regulatory Capital within the required time period, will cause the Applicant's selection to lapse. The Secretary will not restore the selection of such an Applicant after the expiration of that time period. After the expiration of that time period, an Applicant that is not licensed as a RBIC must cease to represent itself as a participant or potential participant in the RBIC program.